CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended)   A method for facilitating the exchange of information between vendors and seekers, the method comprising the steps of:

entering vendors' item records as listings in an electronically searchable data structure;

searching said data structure on the basis of seeker queries generated by seekers;

subsequent to matching a seeker's query with listings of one or more vendors, making available the identity of the seeker for viewing by the vendors corresponding to the matched listings [and] before making available the identity of said vendors for viewing by the seeker.

2.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, further including the step of ensuring that the vendor's item records are for items appearing in an electronically searchable item catalogue.

3.   (Original)   A method according to claim 2, further including the step of ensuring that seeker queries are in respect of items appearing in the item catalogue.

4.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, further including the step of providing for each vendor to nominate seekers who are not to be granted access to said vendor's records.

5.   (Original)   A method according to claim 3, including the step of making seeker contact details available in an electronic form for downloading by the vendors.

6.   (Original)   A method according to claim 3, including the step of making the vendors' contact details available in an electronic form for downloading by the seeker.

7.   (Original)   A method according to claim 2, including the step of aiding the vendors to enter assemblies of items by providing a software module configured to recognize an item which is an assembly of parts and to generate a list of the component parts for entry into the data structure.

8.   (Currently amended)   A network business application including:

an Internet accessible graphical user interface in communication with an electronically searchable listing catalogue of items offered for sale by vendors;

a software module configured to search the listing catalogue in respect of seeker search queries for items;

a search results software module configured to store seeker and vendor contact details for each instance of a search query matching a listing of the listing catalogue[.]; and

wherein the network business application is arranged to make available the identity of the seeker for viewing by the vendors corresponding to the matched listings before making available the identity of said vendors for viewing by the seeker.

9.   (Original)   A network business application according to claim 8, including an electronically searchable item catalogue containing a list of items permitted to be listed in the listing catalogue.

10.   (Original)   A network business application according to claim 9, programmed to only enter a vendor listing into the listing catalogue if a corresponding listing first appears in the item catalogue.

11.   (Original)   A network business application according to claim 8 further including a filtering software module configured to allow a vendor to specify that the vendor's listings are not to be viewed by seekers specified by the vendor.

12.   (Original)   A network business application according to claim 10 programmed to only search the listing catalogue in respect of seeker search queries that are for items appearing in the item catalogue.

13.   (Original)   A network business application according to claim 12 including a dismantler software module configured to generate a listing of item identifiers being sub-parts of an assembly item in response to submission of the assembly item's identifier.

14.   (Original)   A network business application according to claim 13 including a software module configured to aid vendors in creating item listings for submission by presenting them with a series of options to select between.